

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electrode-pad storage cartridge, comprising:
a housing having an interior and removably attachable to a defibrillator;
an electrode pad disposed within the interior; and
a power source disposed in the interior and operable to provide power to the defibrillator when the housing is attached to the defibrillator.
2. The cartridge of claim 1, further comprising:
a first connector attached to the housing and operable to electrically couple the electrode pads to the defibrillator; and
a second connector attached to the housing and operable to electrically couple the power source to the defibrillator.
3. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source comprises a battery.
4. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source comprises an alkaline battery.
5. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source comprises a lithium ion battery.
6. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source comprises an alkaline battery and a lithium ion battery.
7. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source comprises a fuel cell.
8. The cartridge of claim 1, further comprising:
wherein the power source comprises a fuel cell; and
a fuel reservoir coupled to the fuel cell.
9. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein:
the interior has first and second portions;
the electrode pad is disposed in the first portion; and
the power source is disposed in the second portion.
10. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source is operable to provide power to charge a battery disposed in the defibrillator.

1 11. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source is operable to
2 provide power to operate the defibrillator.

1 12. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the housing is formed from a rigid
2 material.

1 13. A defibrillator system, comprising:

2 a defibrillator; and

3 a cartridge, comprising,

4 a cartridge housing having an interior and removably attachable to the
5 defibrillator,

6 an electrode pad disposed within the interior of the housing, and

7 a power source disposed within the interior of the housing and operable
8 to provide power to the defibrillator when the housing is attached to the
9 defibrillator.

1 14. The defibrillator system of claim 13 wherein the defibrillator comprises
2 an automated or semi automated external defibrillator.

1 15. The defibrillator system of claim 13 wherein the defibrillator comprises a
2 battery and is operable to recharge the battery with power provided by the power
3 source.

1 16. The defibrillator system of claim 13 wherein the defibrillator comprises a
2 battery and is operable to maintain a predetermined charge on the battery using the
3 power provided by the power source.

1 17. The defibrillator system of claim 13 wherein:

2 the defibrillator comprises circuitry; and

3 the power source is operable to power the circuitry.

1 18. A defibrillator, comprising:

2 circuitry;

3 a first receptacle operable to receive a first battery for providing power to the
4 circuitry; and

5 a second receptacle operable to receive a self-contained power source for
6 charging the first battery.

1 19. The defibrillator of claim 18, further comprising:
2 a casing; and
3 wherein the first receptacle comprises a compartment disposed within the
4 casing.

1 20. The defibrillator of claim 18, further comprising:
2 a casing;
3 wherein the second receptacle comprises a compartment disposed within the
4 casing.

1 21. The defibrillator of claim 18 wherein the self-contained power source
2 comprises a battery.

1 22. The defibrillator of claim 18 wherein the self-contained power source
2 comprises a fuel cell.

1 23. The defibrillator of claim 18 wherein the self-contained power source
2 comprises:

- 3 a fuel cell; and
4 a fuel reservoir coupled to the fuel cell.

1 24. A defibrillator system, comprising:
2 a defibrillator for generating a defibrillation shock; and
3 one and only one field-replaceable component that is attachable to the
4 defibrillator.

1 25. The defibrillator system of claim 24 wherein the field-replaceable
2 component comprises an electrode-pad storage cartridge including:
3 a housing having an interior and removably attachable to the defibrillator,
4 an electrode pad disposed within the interior, and
5 a power source disposed in the interior and operable to provide power to the
6 defibrillator when the housing is attached to the defibrillator.

1 26. The defibrillator system of claim 24 wherein:
2 the defibrillator comprises a battery operable to power the defibrillator; and
3 the field-replaceable component comprises an electrode-pad storage cartridge
4 including,

5 a housing having an interior and removably attachable to the
6 defibrillator,
7 an electrode pad disposed within the interior, and
8 a power source disposed in the interior and operable to charge the
9 battery when the housing is attached to the defibrillator.

1 27. A defibrillator, comprising:
2 circuitry; and
3 a fuel cell for providing power to the circuitry.

1 28. The defibrillator of claim 27, further comprising a reservoir operable to
2 store fuel for the fuel cell.

1 29. A method, comprising:
2 connecting a self-contained power source to a defibrillator having a battery;
3 and
4 charging the battery with the power source.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of connecting comprises
2 attaching a cartridge to the defibrillator, the cartridge having the power source and an
3 electrode pad.

1 31. The method of claim 29, further comprising:
2 monitoring the power source; and
3 generating an alarm when the power source has a charge level that is lower
4 than a predetermined level.

1 32. The method of claim 29, further comprising:
2 monitoring the battery; and
3 generating an alarm when the battery has a charge level that is lower than a
4 predetermined level.

1 33. A method, comprising:
2 inserting a cartridge into a defibrillator, the cartridge having a power source
3 and an electrode pad; and
4 powering the defibrillator with the power source.

1 34. The method of claim 33 wherein powering comprises charging a battery
2 with the power source, the battery disposed within the defibrillator.

1 35. The method of claim 33 wherein powering comprises powering a circuit
2 with the power source, the circuit disposed within the defibrillator.

1 36. The method of claim 33 wherein powering comprises powering a circuit
2 with the power source and a battery, the circuit and battery disposed within the
3 defibrillator.

1 37. The method of claim 33, further comprising:
2 monitoring a charge level of the power source; and
3 replacing the cartridge when the charge level is below a predetermined level.

1 38. The method of claim 33, further comprising:
2 monitoring a charge level of a battery disposed within the defibrillator;
3 wherein powering the defibrillator comprises charging the battery with the
4 power source; and
5 replacing the cartridge when the charge level is below a predetermined level.